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BIRD AND BEAST.

Battle Between a Hawk and a Big Black Dog Mink.

Silent as an owl in the black of night, the hawk glided low on whist wings across the little open space cleared by the fallen maple, paused an almost imperceptible instant above the unlistening squirrel, and then, wings closed, dropped upon him with unerring talons. But for some strange reason the harrier seemed powerless to bear away his kill; while his angry, frightened screams drowned out the dying squeak of the squirrel, he strove with great rattling wing strokes to get purchase on the air, but could not. Over and over again he struck downward with his beak, apparently at the squirrel, though of this, because of the blur of his whipping wings, I could not be sure. In a moment he half toppled forward, and then, like a huge broken winged partridge, he flopped about among the tangled coils of roots, uttering meanwhile shrill screech on screech that seemed fairly to lacerate his throat. In but little more than it takes to tell it a dozen kingbirds had gathered, and were buzzing round the struggling harrier like gadflies round a horse, adding their spiteful cries to his harsh din; now a crow appeared out of nowhere and searched deep in his throat for his hoarest cry; blue jays flashed across the clearing and back again in a frenzy of clamorous excitement; a swarm of chattering blackbirds rushed into the tree above me till its branches sagged and creaked like those of a laboring tree overweighted with fruit-all in an instant bedlam was let loose round that old wind wrecked maple.

Under cover of the uproar I crept nearer and saw that a big black dog mink, his buildeg jaws clamped on the upper leg of the harrier, was grimly fighting to pull him down from behind, while the harrier, with the speed of terror and hate, sought desperately to reach his assailant with his beak. It looked as if the mink must win, for the harrier was perceptibly weakening in his vain counter attack; but a sudden lift with the harrier's long wings half tore the mink from his hold and swung him for one brief moment within distance of that rending beak. Rip; a big red gash gaped open on the mink's writhing flank, and he let go and tumbled back among the roots. Up leaped the hawk, his pearly white breast streaked and blotched with blood from his wounded leg. Like magic the cries of all but the kingbirds were hushed, while, still screaming with rage and hurt, the hawk rose heavily skyward and marked his course athwart the wind for the shelter of the woods.-Harold S. Deming in Harper's Magazine.

PENGUINS FEEDING.

The Change That Takes Place When They Enter the Water.

The appearance of the keeper of the penguins at the zoo, with his pail of live gudgeon, is the signal for sudden and intense excitement in the cages. The penguins wave their little flippers and waddle to the door, whence they peer eagerly down the wooden steps leading to the pool. The cormorant croaks and sways from side to side, and the darters poise their snaky heads and spread their batlike wings. At the water's edge the penguins do not launch themselves upon the surface like other water fowl, but instantly plunge beneath.

Once below water an astounding change takes place. The slow, ungainly bird is transferred into a swift and brilliant creature, beaded with globules of quicksilver, where the air clings to the close feathers, and flying through the clear and waveless depths with arrowy speed and powers of turning far greater than in any known form of aerial flight. The rapid and steady strokes of the wings are exactly similar to those of the air birds, while its feet float straight out level with the body, unused for propulsion or even as rudders and as little needed in its progress as those of a wild duck when on the wing.

The twists and turns necessary to follow the active little fish are made wholly by the strokes of one wing and the cessation of movement in the other, and the fish are chased, caught and swallowed without the slightest relaxation of speed in a submarine flight which is quite as rapid as that of most birds which take their prey in midair. In less than two minutes some thirty gudgeon are caught and swallowed below water, the only appearance of the birds on the surface being made by one or two bounds from the depths, when the head and shoulders leap above the surface for a second and then disap-

Any attempt to remain on the surface leads to ludicrous splashing and confusion, for the submarine bird cannot float. It can only fly below the surface. Immediately the meal is finished both penguins scramble out of the water and shuffle with round backs and drooping wings back to their cage te dry and digest.-London Spectator.

The wise prove and the foolish confess by their conduct that a life of employment is the only life worth lead-

Florida East Coast Railway

Local Time Card No. 67. In Effect September 16, 1906. SOUTHBOUND-READ DOWN.

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